

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

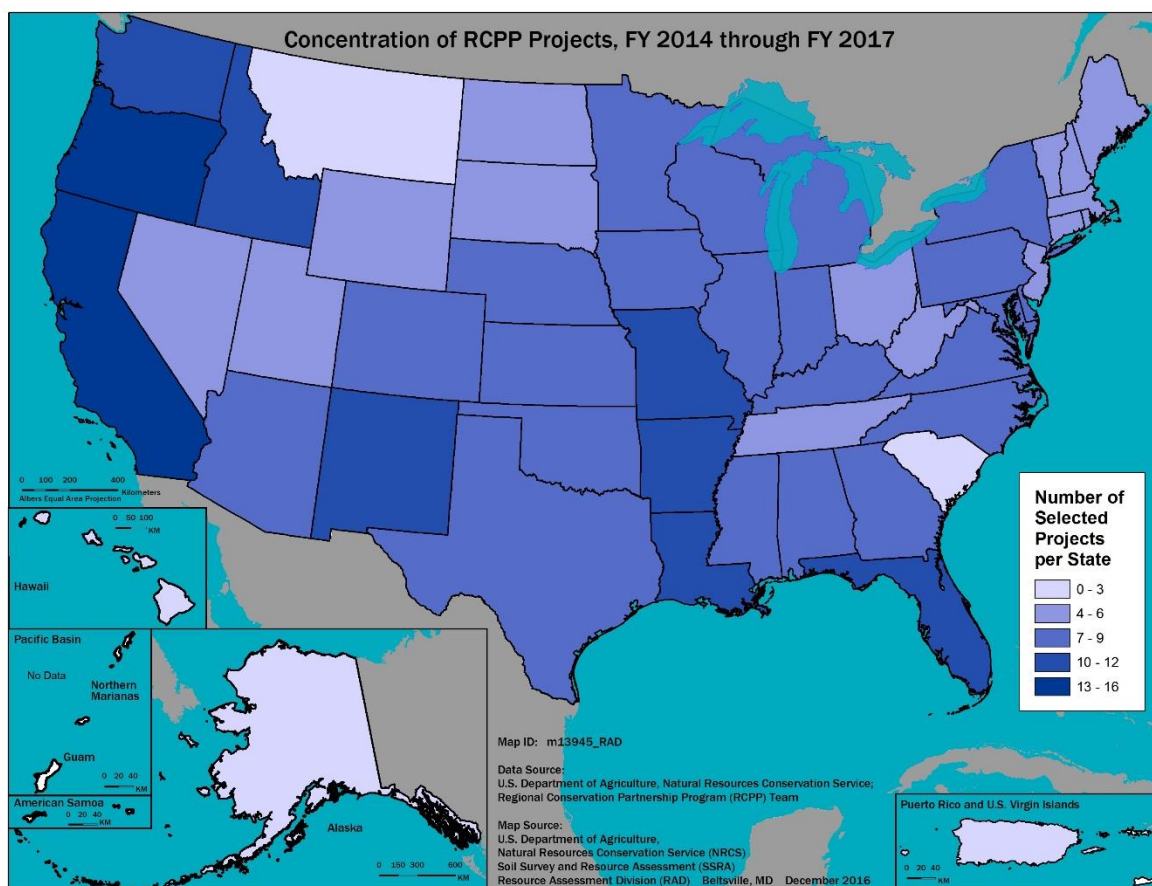
Investing in Iowa



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

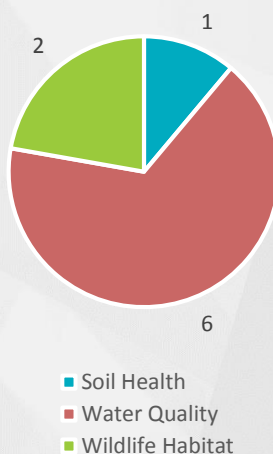
Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including two in Iowa. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.



Iowa Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



9

Projects

**\$34.55
million**

NRCS Investment

153

Partners

Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies	National	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	12	\$6 million
2016	Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership	National	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	40	\$9.5 million
2016	Precision Conservation Management	CCA	Illinois Corn Growers Association	30	\$5.3 million
2016	Upper Cedar Watershed Urban-Rural Partnership	State	City of Charles City	14	\$1.6 million
2014/2015	Iowa Targeted Demonstration Watershed Partnership Project	CCA	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship	20	\$3.5 million
2014/2015	Middle Cedar Partnership Project	State	City of Cedar Rapids	10	\$2.1 million
2014/2015	Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement Initiative	National	The Missouri Department of Conservation	15	\$5 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Fox River Water Quality Project

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$900,000 (National)

Lead Partner: Davis County Soil and Water Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 8

Participating States: Iowa (Lead State)

The Fox River Water Quality Project, in its 18th year, is one of the longest running watershed projects in Iowa. The conservation project will continue to improve the health of the Fox River by addressing water quality, conservation, protection and development of natural resources using voluntary programs that provide economic opportunity. The eight partners, led by the Davis County Soil and Water Conservation District, will help producers improve water quality through conservation practices like installing grade stabilization structures, water and sediment control basins, tile outlet terraces and cover crops.

Innovative Conservation Agriculture

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$646,670 (State)

Lead Partner: Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 4

Participating States: Iowa (Lead State)

Through the Innovative Conservation Agriculture Project, the Allamakee County Soil and Water Conservation will address water quality and soil quality/health concerns in Allamakee County. Specifically, the project will support implementation of cover crops and no-till in conjunction with manure application, the conversion of marginal cropland to pasture, and the addition of a small grain crop to a corn-soybean system, preferably with the inclusion of cover crops in the rotation. These practices will help to minimize soil erosion and nutrient runoff. Through the project, eligible farmers will receive financial assistance to implement conservation practices, and the project will address the need to educate producers and landowners about how different practices affect soil health and long-term productivity.

